

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual A.G.C. . Open a Success!

This past September 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> annual All God's Children Golf Outing with a full complement of players. As in prior years, the site of the outing was Pine Meadow Golf Course in Mundelein, IL which is one of the finest public clubs in the Chicago area. We were blessed this year with blue skies and temperatures in the 70s – a picture day for autumn golf in the Midwest!

A full field of 92 players competed as four-somes in a “scramble” format tournament. The day saw some truly amazing shots as evidenced by the winners of the Men's and Women's Long Drive Contests and the Closest to The Pin contests on the par 3's. However, the most sensational round of golf was turned in by Tim and Mary MacKenzie and Joe and Tami Pringle whose foursome combined to post an exceptional 14 under score claiming 1<sup>st</sup> place honors for the day. As the old adage goes, the couples who play together, stay together! Also, Blake Lacher was the lucky winner of this year's raffle grand prize - four Sky-box seats for the Bulls vs. Celtics game on January 3<sup>rd</sup> donated by McGuireWoods LLP.

A special note of thanks to the Alch family for their tireless work each year to organize and put on this wonderful outing and for all our faithful sponsors and volunteers (especially Sharon Goetzke and Richard Weil) who helped make the event a success. In particular, we want to express our great appreciation to Promus Holdings for being our anchor sponsor and to each of McGuireWoods LLP, PNC Equipment Finance, the DeBoer, Perzek, Stormer & Webber Families, MNP Corporation, CMT Asset Management, Administrative Resource Options, Systems Research Inc./ Systems Technology Inc., Rosen Honda and Potestivo & Associates P.C. for their generous support.

We look forward to seeing all of our golfers again at next year's A.G.C. Open which will be held on Friday September 25, 2015.

## Winter 2014 Board Bullets

- The AGC Board travelled to Hogar Nazareth the first week in December. The Board met with the Hogar Nazareth Board and finalized the signing of the *Ministry Partnership Agreement* formalizing the relationship between the organizations, and identifying their respective roles in the Hogar ministries.
- The Board also met with senior staff at Hogar Nazareth, Buen Pastor, CasAyuda, and Hogar Amor. Each meeting began with an AGC board member's devotions and words of affirmation, and then a discussion of the challenges and needs of each ministry. The meetings were very productive and good spirited. Increased security measures at each home were also discussed.
- Eight young women and 4 men will be attending the University in Tegucigalpa. The Board also toured the townhomes where they will be living and noted several maintenance needs.
- The Band of Brothers men's group attended the student graduations, treated them to a graduation luncheon at Hotel Antigua, attended Linda and Roberto's wedding, and engaged in the usual work projects, shopping excursion, and fiesta.

All God's Children

PO Box 5909

Villa Park, IL 60181

(630) 862-1728

e-mail: agcltd@comcast.net

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For sponsorship opportunities, the history of Hogar de Niños and more information about AGC visit our Web site:  
[www.agcltd.org](http://www.agcltd.org)

## AGC Board of Directors

Allen Heerema, President & Executive Director

Pamela DeBoer      Jan Kamp

Paul Lagestee      Tim MacKenzie

John Hiskes, Secretary      Robert Venhousen, Treasurer



# News of the Niños

Winter 2014

Comayagua, Honduras

Dear sponsors, friends, benefactors, and AGC Board,

The Hogar Nazareth sends a respectful greeting, wishing that God is blessing you all abundantly.

We have recently received the visit of Group of Men who visited all projects of Hogar Nazareth . They painted the girls home and the granja and their visit was very productive. Also, all board members of AGC visited us. On Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> the Board of Directors of AGC and with the Board of Directors of Hogar Nazareth to execute an agreement between these two Boards. Its purpose is the welfare of boys, girls and youths who are under our custody.

On November 26 Vivian Lorena, Geny Merliza & Elvia Marina graduated as pre-**Elementary School Teachers**. They were very happy for their achievement of completing their high school studies and for having the possibility to enroll at University. On December 6, Perla Shayleen and Nora Huete received their **High School Diploma in Arts and Science**. They have the possibility of starting University up to June next year if they pass the exam.

Girls who study at the **Immaculada Concepción** school have already finished their classes and are in vacations. This year was a rewarding period for them because they all completed their school grade. We are also very happy because Martha María and Johana Antonia from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and María Elena, Diana Maritza, HilarValeska, Jesmy Yadira from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, were included in the Roll of Honor with a grade point average of 91% and higher. The girls that study at the **Ebenezer School** got good results since almost all of them completed their school grade. Only Soralicia and Sinia failed their courses and will repeat the school year.

On November 23, the girls Digna Jaquelin and Yolanda Yolibeth received their **first communion** in the Church Santísima Trinidad. Furthermore, the youths Sinia, Masy Manuel, Ginny Mae, Jeimy, Fany, Samatha, Merlin, Kinbirl, Yeni, Martha, Geny, received their **confirmation** on November 29, in the Church Santísima Trinidad.

Among the girls that study at Bellas Artes, Charlin Carmi Osorto passed her school year, but Juana María Mejía failed her course; she will enter university in June next year if she passes the exam.

Our girls have been very healthy. Now, during vacations, girls and boys have been having appointments with the psychologist of the Hospital San Benito José. This will help them to improve their self-esteem, as sessions are being held through playing groups, and then they will be evaluated individually.

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**“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.” Mark 9:37**

**At the farm.**

On November 25, Nestor Daniel graduated at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). The graduation was very emotional, cheerful and satisfying for all graduated youths. It was a very beautiful event. Amilcar received his High School Diploma in Vehicle Mechanics and Atdl received his Technical High School Diploma in Computing. This year, Atdly will be able to start university up to June if he passes the exam.

Children who study in the School Santa Ana have already finished their school grade. They all successfully completed their school year and they are very happy for being on vacations. They all have passed their school grade, except for Alan who failed and who will repeat 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

Cristian Josué Reyes has undergone a surgery in Tegucigalpa in ZOE Medical Center. He has successfully recovered from the surgery and he is very happy because he says that he can see well and he thanks God for that. Also, the minor Josué Jafeth has undergone a surgery due to a herniation at the Hospital San Benito José.

On December 21, 4 youths will be baptized in the Parrish Villa de San Antonio. On December 27, 11 children will received their confirmation.

We have recently had 2 graduations from the Farm. Jack graduated on November 12, completing the Cookery Course at the School Workshop; and José Luis graduated on November 11. He had finished school in 2013.

In “**El Buen Pastor**”, all girls satisfactorily passed their grades and they are very happy because they already are on vacations spending their time looking after the girls and boys. On August 2, Sandy Yosely, who is Alexandra’s mother, graduated as Nursing Assistant last year successfully completing all her classes, and this year she has had her nursing practice. She is about to finish her social service at San Jerónimo, where she lives with her father.

In **Casa Misericordia**, the resident women have been healthy, some of them with their medications controlled; their classes finished on November 12<sup>th</sup>. In a previous letter we told you that Belkis would stay temporarily in Casa Misericordia. She has been under treatment but her health condition did not improve, so she was transferred to the Psychiatric Hospital Mario Mendoza on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November. We have visited her. Her recovery is slow. We kindly ask you to pray for her health.

As usual, we deeply appreciate and thank you for your unconditional support for the welfare of our children.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015.

God bless you, Carmen, girls, boys and youths

**SPONSORS NEEDED**

Monthly sponsorship is one of the primary means by which AGC raises support for the children and staff at Hogar. It also fills a basic need of the children to feel loved, secure and worthy. Please consider sponsoring one of the children below. For further information contact Jan Kamp at

*kampers07@sbcglobal.net.*



Eduar Jose age 16



Jose Enrique age 16



## GOD SIGHTINGS IN ELMHURST

Anyone who has visited Hogar de Ninos with an AGC Serve team knows about God sightings. They are the glimpses of God's presence and special moments of grace that we experience in our interaction with the Hogar ninos. Sharing them with the group at evening devotions is an essential part of each trip.



As it turns out God sightings happen here also, and many were witnessed recently at AGC's first formal fundraising event held at Elmhurst CRC in west suburban Chicago. Over 300 guests, a blend of AGC sponsors, work team members, and newly introduced family and friends gathered for the event. After a warm welcome from Juan Francisco we all enjoyed a catered Honduran dinner at tables decked out with festive multi colored table settings.

The ensuing program included heartfelt testimonies and expressions of gratitude from Hogar grads Doris, Christina, and Melissa, viewing of the new AGC video professionally produced by the Kala Group, Allen Heerema's emotional retelling of the early days of Hogar and its remarkable growth and development, and a time for pledging gifts for the education of ninos in Honduras while being blessed with two glorious musical selections from Grammy and Tony Award soloist Heather Headley. It was truly an evening filled with God's grace and Spirit.



Photos by Jan Kamp

## Doris shares her story at fundraising Dinner

Hello my name is Doris. Thank you to Mr. Allan for letting me share my story. And thank you to everyone who has come this evening to support AGC. I am from Honduras and I am the third of five sisters. When I was very young we lived with a lot of violence from my father. My father was a drunk and an aggressive man. My father beat my mother because he wanted a son and my mother was unable to have one. My father beat us because we were women and most times my mother would rather take the hits for us. So we lived each day with a lot of violence from my father. One day my mother could no longer endure blows and she decided to flee taking us with her. We were hidden for a while but my father found us. He grabbed my mom and beat her aggressively; beating and cutting her with a machete, injuring her entire body. She did not resist his blows because she was trying to save my sisters and me. She would soon die from these injuries, but it was not an instant death because she was worried about what would happen to us and wanted to save us before she died. About that time, a man came to help us that we had never met. I later learned his name was Norman. My mom told him it was too late to help her and she would not be able to reach the hospital alive. My mom asked Norman to help and to promise that he would take care of us girls just as a father cares for his own daughters. At first Norman did not answer and she begged him to take care of us. After he told my mom that he would take care of us, she died. I remember that day like it was yesterday. Only one of my sisters and I were there with my mother when she died. None of us could attend my mother's funeral because my father was looking for us to kill us too. Residents of my village had to hide us. All of this happened when I was only 6 years old and my older sister was 10.

Norman was not a relative of ours so he could not take care of us. One day a man claiming to be our uncle took us to live in a secluded mountain town where he thought we would be safe from my father. There we were left alone for a long time and my older sister, just 10 years old, was responsible for our care. My mother always taught us that if we remained together nothing would happen to us. Always, in spite of any circumstances, we stayed together because we only had each other.

One day that man claiming to be my uncle came for us. He came to separate us girls among different families. Thank God that two of my sisters stayed together. I stayed with another sister at a family nearby. We did not know what had happened to our 5th sister. This was extremely difficult for us because we had never been separated. The surprise was that the family that took two of my sisters was Norman's family, the man



who promised my mother to take care of us. Norman looked for all of us but had found only two. He wanted to keep us all together.

Norman knew of the existence of a home for all of us. He decided to send us there for our safety and well being. This home was called Hogar de Niños, an orphanage supported by All God's Children. Before we would go to this home, we needed to find our other missing sister. Norman somehow found her.

When I arrived at the Hogar de Niños I was 8 years old. I had been living with strangers for two years, hiding from my father. At first it was difficult because the five sisters would not let anyone get close to us because we thought everyone would hurt us. Many professionals helped us overcome our past. We all believed that God had a greater purpose in our lives. At the Hogar, we were able to have everything a child needed to develop. I even finished my studies in college. Now I'm studying English at the ESL program connected with Dominican University here in Illinois. I hope to be better prepared when I return to my country to get a good job. This will enable me to help my family. All of my studies and my well-being are possible thanks to All God's Children. For each child

at the Hogar, you are a fundamental part of our lives. Each child has a different story that brought them to the Hogar. We are all in need of food, education and love to have a chance at a successful life. I can see the greatness of God and now I have a large family because of the Hogar. The family of AGC occupies a special place in all of our hearts. Through your contributions to AGC and visits to see us in Honduras, God sees your good works and we can feel your love.

*I do not regret anything that I have been through. I can see that God has never left me*

Thanks for making many of our dreams possible and to be a part of our successes in life. It was hard losing my mother. I know that God is never wrong in what he does. I am now 30 years old. The reward in my life was making me a woman who knew how to fill that gap in my heart. I have the best family in the world and the best sisters because we are all still together. Each of us has her own life and family but we share our lives, our problems and our joys together. Through my experiences, God has put many people in my life who love me. Thanks to all of you who support AGC. You are angels that God sends to care for his children here on earth. I do not regret anything that I have been through. I can see that God has never left me.

Thank you.